

## ABSTRACT

A method and system for conducting a transaction over a network is disclosed. The network includes a first system and a second system. The method and system comprise initiating a transaction, comparing a value of the first system with a value of the second system and continuing the transaction based on the comparison. Through the use of the present invention, a client can download for-fee files as often as necessary in spite of potential lost connections. Consequently, the client can download files he or she has paid for with the assurance that he or she will pay just once because payment is not for the content, but for an encryption key that is capable of being utilized by the client system to subsequently decrypt the downloaded file.